



MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN
Wednesday, June 1, 2016
Mansfield Senior Center
DRAFT - MINUTES

Members Present: Maggie Ferron (staff), Pat Schneider (staff), Danielle Annibalini (staff), Acey Neel, Pam Roberts, Lisa Dahn, Marianne Legassey, Ana Zeller, Jane Goldman, Jordana Frost

Regrets: Rachel Leclerc, Judy Stoughton, Kathy Ward, Susan Daley, Ben Wiles, Heather Lasky, Ana Zeller

Guests: Barb Giardina, Sarah Woulfin

WHAT	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME
CALL TO ORDER	Maggie Ferron called the meeting to order at 5:36pm.	
CONSENT AGENDA	Approval of the Minutes of May 4, 2016.	<i>The May 4, 2016 meeting minutes were approved.</i>
TOPICAL DISCUSSION, DRAFTING A SURVEY TO GUIDE MAC IN SY 16-17	<p>Maggie Ferron started the discussion with notes she drafted prior to the meeting with suggestions regarding what we might want to ask. (See attached)</p> <p>It was suggested that the survey start with a question asking the ages and number of children in specific age ranges. Question of whether the respondent's first language/language he or she speaks at home should be asked at beginning as well.</p> <p>Suggested that survey should provide info on what MAC has done over the past year in order to familiarize respondents with the group and to see whether a) they attended and b) if not, why not.</p> <p>Suggested that survey should ask for barriers to participation in programs/events- cost, location, time of day/week, transportation, lack of interest, wasn't aware of the event, etc.</p> <p>Jane Goldman brought up the survey done in 2010 and suggested we use parts of it as a template. Suggestion adopted.</p> <p>Suggested we solicit whether people would be interested in certain, specific new programs- e.g., parent/infant, support groups for parents, working parent groups, exercise, health awareness, new parents, etc.</p>	<p><i>Maggie will draft survey based on suggestions. Comments due Monday 6/13.</i></p> <p><i>Maggie will speak to Ana Zeller re: using EHHD's survey monkey account for the survey.</i></p>

	<p>Discussion as to whether survey should be translated or whether volunteers might translate a brief cover letter in a few languages spoken in Mansfield. Feasibility of translation and interpretation of the translated surveys discussed. Fact that many non-native speakers are relatively proficient in written English brought up. Pam Roberts stated she would look into birth-three translation services.</p> <p>Online survey system Survey Monkey discussed as host for survey. Different accounts and possibilities discussed. Jordana Frost informed members that EHHD has an account and suggested we speak to Ana regarding use of their account.</p> <p>Distribution: survey will be distributed over the summer through email lists and on the website. Press release will announce survey. Pam Roberts and Acey Neel will assist with data entry of email addresses. Once public schools are back in session, will distribute via their channels. Will have paper copies at library and community center.</p> <p>MAC membership will interpret data starting in October 2016.</p>	
STAFF REPORT	<p>Staff Report: Maggie Ferron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be budget cuts in the school readiness program and possibly the Child Day Care program. \$1.5 M will be cut from the operating budgets of the Competitive School Readiness, Priority School Readiness, and CDC. Most will come from Competitive School Readiness per Gerri Rowell of OEC. No exact indication of when information will be provided regarding how much will be cut, Maggie will update group as information becomes available. • Maggie updated group on progress of food quality & sourcing initiative. They are drafting a letter to MBOE asking for permission to conduct an inventory of what resources the public schools have in order to secure a farm to school grant through the USDA. Also, Jiff Martin will be on the search committee for a new food services director. 	
NEW BUSINESS	<p>Next Meeting Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey of early childhood environment-develop questions and strategy for publication. 	
ADJOURN	<p>The meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.</p> <p>Next Regular MAC Meeting, Wednesday, September 7, Mansfield Senior Center</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Maggie Ferron, Early Childhood Services Coordinator</p>	

QUESTIONS FOR MAC SURVEY

- Areas of Concern for your kids 0-8:
 - Academic- tutoring, ESL, school readiness/Care4Kids, preschool options
 - Health- physical activity, weight, access to health care, mental health (e.g., YSB and UConn options),
 - Community- awareness of town sites to meet other families, resources for assistance
- Programming interests:
 - Literacy? Parent support? Sports/fitness? Parent education (e.g., healthy eating, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, financial literacy, planning for college, drafting a will)?
 - Intergenerational opportunities?
- Policy Interests:
 - Recess time? Healthy school lunches?
- Satisfaction with health supports (e.g., info from town), educational system, connection to community
- Level of awareness of town political/civic issues, suggestions for better awareness campaigns/ getting info on town issues out
- How do you prefer to learn about opportunities and town news?
- How much would you pay for a program?
- Best times/days to hold kids/parent programs
- Transportation situation/needs

BEST WAY TO GET SURVEY OUT TO PEOPLE AND COLLECT RESPONSES

- Survey Monkey (see attachment)- could send link through schools, email list
- Paper survey- could distribute at MCC/library/Centers /schools, but how do we collect responses? By mail? Drop off box at library & MCC?
- Link on MAC website & Facebook

Other thoughts?